

Dr. Shaw Denies Alleged Prejudice

Says City School System Almost Totally Integrated

Dr. Robert Shaw, superintendent of schools, last night denied that the city's school system is under de facto segregation as a local member of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People charged at a race relations meeting Sunday.

Dr. Shaw answered charges made by former candidate for mayor, Mrs. Robert Kreigh.

Mrs. Kreigh said Sunday she had been working without success since August, 1964, to persuade the school board to integrate the public schools. Dr. Shaw countered by saying they already are well-integrated.

"Columbia school patrons are pleased with our progress," he said, "and it is a matter of record that the Board of Education has adopted a policy of immediate compliance with the 1964 Supreme Court decision which requires all public schools to integrate."

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Dr. Shaw said almost every school through the 12 grades has some Negro students. The one exception may be Douglass School on 310 North Providence Rd. which is in the heart of the city's urban renewal project. The project's low income housing area predominantly is

populated by Negro families.

"Douglass is predominantly Negro," Dr. Shaw admitted, "but it is in a section of the city that is nearly 100 per cent Negro."

After the 1954 Supreme Court decision the board sent all high school students at Douglass to Hickman High School. Since then they also have moved the junior high students to Hickman.

Mrs. Kreigh was one of five panelists discussing race relations in Columbia on Sunday afternoon. Other representatives were from the Congress of Racial Equality, Students for Democratic Society, The White Citizens Council and Black Muslims.

James Rollins, of CORE, said apathy among Negroes in the community hampers his organization.

Mrs. Kreigh added that an official of the Missouri Human Rights Commission had told her that if one Negro family would sue the Board of Education for de facto school segregation, the integration of the city's public schools could be achieved.

She said, "If this is going to be done the Negro community will have to do it itself."